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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/568,061

11/20/2006

Wilhelm Maurer

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ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP  
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET  
SUITE 1800  
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873

EXAMINER

CHIN SHUE, ALVIN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/26/2011

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/568,061	MAURER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	ALVIN CHIN SHUE	3634	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18,20-25,28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18,20-25,28 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

The request filed on 8/30/11 for a Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. Any previous finality is hereby withdrawn and a new action on the merits follows. Any newly-submitted claims have been added. An action on the RCE follows.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baringer in view of Aguilar. Baringer shows an arrangement comprising two consoles at 40 with handles 61, a longitudinal rack-like profile 10 with retaining bars at 12a, the claimed difference being the personal safety device. Aguilar shows a personal safety device 31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Baringer with a personal safety device, as taught by Aguilar, to provide for the safety of a user.

Claims 4, 10 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baringer in view of Aguilar, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bixby. Bixby shows a pinion 29, rack 26 and a gear drive at 28.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baringer for his arrangement to comprise rack and pinion force transmitting means with gear drive, as taught by Bixby, in lieu of his, by the substituted of one known force transmitting means for another for their known advantages, i.e. the facilitating movement by motor rather than manual means. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the use of generators for feeding current to rechargeable battery pack that operate drive motors is conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baringer his motors to be operated by generators and rechargeable battery packs, as set forth in claim 16, in view of the conventional teachings.

Claims 6-8,11,17,18,28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baringer in view of Aguilar and Bixby, as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of either Freeman or Maubach et al. Baringer, as applied above, shows the claimed arrangement with the exception of the centrifugal brake. Freeman shows a centrifugal brake at 100. Maubach shows a centrifugal brake at 18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baringer to comprise a force transmitting element

with a centrifugal brake, as taught by either Freeman or Maubach, to inhibit motion in a downward direction.

Claims 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baringer in view of Aguilar and Bixby, as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Schworer. Baringer, as applied above, shows the claimed arrangement with the exception of the automatically controlled drive to enable alternating drive of the consoles. Schworer teaches automatically controlled drives to enable alternating movement of consoles. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baringer for his climbing aids to comprise automatically controlled drives, as taught by Schworer, to facilitate alternating movement of this aids. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the use of generators for feeding current to rechargeable battery pack that operate drive motors is conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baringer to comprise handles with his control and for his motors to be operated by generators and rechargeable battery packs, as set forth in claim 22, in view of the conventional teachings.

Claims 1,6,7 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrogiannis in view of Aguilar. Mastrogiannis in fig. 10

shows an arrangement comprising consoles at 16", rack-like component at 92 and retaining bar at 2 and personal safety device at 20", the claimed difference being the handle and the belt safety device. Aguilar shows a console with a handle attached to the top of his console (see claim 1), and a safety belt 31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis for his consoles' longitudinal extending portions 12 to be extended to a height within the reach of a user's hand and to comprise a handle at its upper end, and to comprise a safety belt, as taught by Aguilar, to provide a safety handle and safety belt, respectively, for safety of a user.

Claims 4, 10 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrogiannis in view of Aguilar, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bixby. Mastrogiannis, as applied above, shows the claimed arrangement with the exception of the rack component and pinion element, gear and motor. Bixby shows a pinion 29, rack 26 and a gear drive at 28. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis for his arrangement to comprise rack and pinion force transmitting means and gear drive, as taught by Bixby, by the substituted of one known force transmitting means for another for their known advantages. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the use of generators for feeding current

to rechargeable battery pack that operate drive motors is conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis his motors to be operated by generators and rechargeable battery packs, as set forth in claim 16, in view of the conventional teachings.

Claims 6-8,11,17,18,28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrogiannis in view of Aguilar and Bixby, as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of either Freeman or Maubach et al. Mastrogiannis, as applied above, shows the claimed arrangement with the exception of the centrifugal brake. Freeman shows a centrifugal brake at 100. Maubach shows a centrifugal brake at 18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis to comprise a force transmitting element with a centrifugal brake, as taught by either Freeman or Maubach, to inhibit motion in a downward direction.

Claims 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrogiannis in view of Aguilar and Bixby, as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Schworer. Mastrogiannis, as applied above, shows the claimed arrangement with the exception of the automatically controlled drive to enable alternating drive of the consoles. Schworer teaches automatically controlled

drives to enable alternating movement of consoles. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis for his climbing aids to comprise automatically controlled drives, as taught by Schworer, to facilitate alternating movement of this aids. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the use of generators for feeding current to rechargeable battery pack that operate drive motors is conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mastrogiannis to comprise handles with his control and for his motors to be operated by generators and rechargeable battery packs, as set forth in claim 22, in view of the conventional teachings.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,4,6-18,20-25,28 and 29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALVIN CHIN SHUE whose telephone number is (571)272-6828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The



fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alvin C. Chin-Shue  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634

/Alvin C. Chin-Shue/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3634